

# MINUTES

## Parent Involvement Committee

Sept. 19, 2016

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**Date:** Monday, Sept. 19, 2016

**Time:** 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

**Place:** Caledon Room, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

**In attendance:** Daniella Balasal, Co-chair, Brampton  
Indra Maharjan, Co-chair, Brampton  
Harpal Kalsi, Ex-officio, Mississauga  
Jagdev Bahra, Parent member, Brampton  
Anju Dhawan, Parent member, Mississauga  
Kuldeep Kanda, Parent member, Brampton  
Naureen Khan, Parent member, Brampton  
Heather Munich, Parent member, Caledon  
Loretta Neebar, Parent member, Mississauga  
Jo-Anna Ravelo, Parent member, Brampton  
Sonja Williams, Parent member, Mississauga

Barb Cyr, representing PDSB Special Education Advisory Committee  
Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel  
Tony Pontes, Director of Education  
Nokha Dakroub, Trustee Mississauga  
Kathy McDonald, Trustee Brampton  
Kayla Tishcoff, Communications Officer  
Ryan Reyes, Manager of Community Relations  
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator

**Regrets:** G.Paul Renwick, Parent member, Caledon  
Bill MacGregor, President, PPVPA  
Stan Cameron, Trustee Caledon

### Welcome

Co-chair Indra Maharjan welcomed all members to the first PIC general meeting of 2015-16, including returning members and new members: Heather Munich (Caledon parent), G.Paul Renwick (Caledon parent), Bill MacGregor (President, Peel Principals and Vice-Principals Association), and Ryan Reyes (Manager of Community Relations). The Peel Student President Association is currently selecting a student member to join PIC.

The meeting agenda and minutes from the June 27, 2016, meeting were approved.

### PIC Mandate

Indra explained PIC's mandate, which the committee will follow for all decision-making:

- support, encourage, and enhance meaningful *parent engagement* at the *board* level
- to *improve student achievement* and well-being;
- provide *information and advice* to the board on parent engagement;
- communicate with and *support school councils*;
- *undertake activities to help parents* support their children's learning at home and at school.

## Code of Conduct – Terms of Reference

Indra highlighted the code of conduct for meetings, as outlined in PIC’s Terms of Reference:

<http://www.peelschools.org/parents/involved/pic/TOR>

- respect and follow all applicable laws
- demonstrate honesty and integrity
- respect differences in people
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, especially when there is disagreement
- respect the rights of others
- take the proper steps to help those in need
- respect the need of others to work in an environment that encourages learning and teaching

## Trustee Updates

Kathy McDonald, trustee representing Brampton, provided the following update:

- The beginning of the school year has been busy, but a smooth start.
- She highlighted some bus delays in her schools in Brampton, and explained how the board is working with bus companies to minimize delays.
- A new secondary school, Jean Augustine Secondary School, opened in Brampton.

Nokha Dakroub, trustee representing Mississauga, provided the following update:

- She highlighted a parent guide developed by John Fraser Secondary School, which will be funded by the school’s PRO grant. The guide outlines programs and clubs available to students.

## Director Updates

Director of Education Tony Pontes provided the following update:

- At this year’s Starting Point event, he launched new system goals—four goals that should drive our decision-making:
  - ❖ **High expectations for achievement:** set high expectations for staff and students to ensure all students achieve personal excellence
  - ❖ **Parent, community and staff engagement:** Engage staff, parents and communities to support student success
  - ❖ **Equity and Inclusion:** Achieve inclusion for all through continuous progress on equity
  - ❖ **Safe, positive and healthy climate/well-being:** Build safe, positive, healthy climates for learning and working to nurture student and staff well-being
- Tony will highlight one goal at each PIC meeting, starting with Parent engagement at the next meeting.
- By the end of this school year, all secondary schools will have inclusive washrooms. These washrooms are in addition to the existing male and female washrooms.
- Last year, the board proactively looked at school iconography and team names to ensure they were respectful to all communities. The board worked with Chinguacousy Secondary School (chiefs) and Port Credit Secondary School (warriors) to move away from iconography that the First Nations Metis Inuit



communities considered disrespectful. Schools will continue to work with students to help them understand why these logos, and others, could be hurtful.

- In regards to air conditioning in schools, the board will look at strategies to minimize the impact of hot days.

### Planning Calendar

The committee approved that there will be five general meetings:

- Monday, September 19 : First meeting plus orientation of new members (5.30-7 pm)
- Tuesday, November 29: (5.30-6.30 PM)
- Thursday, January 19: (5.30-6.30 PM)
- Thursday, March 23: (5.30-6.30 PM)
- Tuesday May 30: (5.30-6.30 PM)

All meetings will be held at 5650 Hurontario St. in Mississauga, in the Caledon Room.

Other important PIC initiatives:

- **It's a Family Affair** – dates TBD. With the positive responses from school councils, the committee hopes to hold two events this year: one before the Parent Numeracy Conference and one in May.
- **PRO Grant**—The committee was congratulated for their successful PRO Regional Grant application. The committee received \$15,000 from the Ministry of Education to spend on their plan for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and High Needs Neighbourhoods.
- **Visits to school councils**—this year, parent members plan to visit school councils to promote PIC and determine how the committee can assist parent involvement at the school level.

### Roadmap

A roadmap for the year was presented, which included the general direction of PIC for 2016-17:

1. PIC Outreach: continue to build momentum through events
2. Communications: Support and engage school councils, as well as through newsletters
3. PRO Grants: improve student success in high needs neighbourhoods
4. Delivery model of PIC: subcommittees, accountability, effective use of budget

### Great Start—School Council Orientation Event

Each school council can send three members to attend *Great Start: An orientation and training evening for school council members* on **Nov. 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Turner Fenton Secondary School in Brampton**. An invitation will be sent to school councils in early October. PIC will also be invited to host a table and/or workshop.

If PIC members are interested in holding a workshop or hosting a PIC table, please email [kayla.tishcoff@peelsb.com](mailto:kayla.tishcoff@peelsb.com) by Sept. 30, 2016.

### Budget

PIC has a budget of \$28,644.27 for the 2016-17 school year. In addition, PIC received a Parent Reaching Out Grant of \$15,000.

### Subcommittees

This year, PIC will focus on more subcommittee meetings—dates to be organized, as needed, by each subcommittee.

Members signed up for the following subcommittees:

- *PRO Grant*  
[insert names here]

Notes: This subcommittee will focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning as well as targeting high needs areas to address parent/community needs. The committee discussed focusing PRO grant efforts on one school in each municipality or focusing on one specific school. Tony suggested the subcommittee follow the Social Risk Index to determine target locations.

- *Events*  
[insert names here]

- *Budget*  
[insert names here]

- *PRO Grant*  
[insert names here]

- *Selection*  
[insert names here]

Notes: Last year's selection committee is currently working to fill one vacancy.

Co-chairs will email synopses of each subcommittee.

### **Upcoming election**

At the next PIC general meeting, the committee will elect a co-chair, treasurer and secretary. Interested PIC members can self-nominate by sending an email to [parentinvolvement@peelsb.com](mailto:parentinvolvement@peelsb.com)

### **Starting Point kickoff meeting summary**

Harpal provided an update on the Starting Point event for administrators held on August 31, 2016. To read Director Pontes' Starting Point address, visit: <http://www.peelschools.org/aboutus/directorsmessage>

### **Special Presentation: Safe City Mississauga, Nadia Mokriy**

Safe City Mississauga offers programs to keep Mississauga safe, including Neighbourhood Watch and a free tutoring program in high priority neighbourhoods.

Of interest to PIC, Safe City Mississauga's Cyber Ambassadors program aims to stop cyber violence against girls and women. The program works with secondary school students by:

1. Asking ambassadors to send out positive messages on social media #smilesauga
2. Via their website <http://safecitymississauga.on.ca/> – safe, bully-free space for students to talk
3. Providing presentations to elementary students – this opportunity is also available to parent councils

Now, Safe City Mississauga is looking to educate parents via tip sheets and YouTube films, available on their website.

**Special Presentation: Drugs Online Parent Modules, Jessica Cassar and Linda Andrews**

[linda.andrews@peelregion.ca](mailto:linda.andrews@peelregion.ca), [jessica.cassar@peelregion.ca](mailto:jessica.cassar@peelregion.ca)

The presentation outlined free resources available to parents that compliment what students are learning in the classroom about drug abuse, particularly alcohol and marijuana. There are five modules on basic drug information, each about 10 minutes in length. They include simple, practical strategies to talk to your child about these issues. To view the modules, visit: [www.talkaboutdrugs.ca](http://www.talkaboutdrugs.ca)

The committee suggested that the materials be made available in different languages and on frequently accessed webpages.

**Bylaw change**

The committee approved a change to *Bylaw: Filling committee vacancies* from:

Committee members who are absent from three consecutive committee meetings without the approval of the committee thereby vacate their seat. The co-chairs have the ability to approve the extended absence of any committee member.

To:

Committee members who are absent from three consecutive committee meetings without the approval of the committee thereby vacate their seat. **Members who are absent from two consecutive committee meetings will receive a notice from the co-chairs, asking for confirmation of their interest to remain on PIC.** The co-chairs have the ability to approve the extended absence of any committee member.

**Next committee meeting date: Nov. 29, 2016 – 5:30 pm, Caledon Rm**